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**PATENT APPLICATION**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of

Docket No: Q66039

Katsuhiro SAITOU, et al.

Appln. No. 09/941,710

Group Art Unit: 2836

Confirmation No.: 6248

Examiner: Unknown

Filed: August 30, 2001

For: POWER SUPPLY CONTROL SYSTEM AND POWER SUPPLY CONTROL METHOD  
CAPABLE OF REDUCING ELECTRIC POWER CONSUMPTION

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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98**

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Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

SEP 03 2002

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Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified) (substitute for PTO Form 1449) form and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem material to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

One copy of each of the listed documents is submitted herewith.

1. Japanese Examined Utility Model Application Publication No. 51-7071, published February 26, 1976.
2. Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. 57-3265, published January 8, 1982.

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3. Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. 61-20125, published January 28, 1986.
4. Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. 62-18693, published January 27, 1987.
5. Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. 62-75821, published April 7, 1987.
6. Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. 64-70810, published March 16, 1989.
7. Japanese Microfilm of Utility Model Application 1-25881, published March 7, 1989 (corresponds to Japanese Unexamined Utility Model Application Publication No. 2-117758, published September 20, 1990).
8. Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. 2-128359, published May 16, 1990.
9. Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. 2-293917, published December 5, 1990.
10. Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. 4-109457, published April 10, 1992.
11. Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. 5-173676, published July 13, 1993.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed: (1) No later than three months from the application's filing date for an application other than a continued prosecution

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

application (CPA) under § 1.53(d); (2) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits (whichever is later); or (3) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action after filing a request for continued examination (RCE) under § 1.114, and therefore, no Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is required.

In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3) for foreign language documents, Applicant encloses herewith a copy of a corresponding Japanese Office Action dated May 14, 2002, and an English translation of the pertinent portions thereof, which cites and indicates the degree of relevance found by the foreign patent office.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,



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Q66039

1. The inventions as per the following claims of this application are inventions that had been described in publications distributed prior to the filing of this application, and therefore come under Article 29, Section 1, Paragraph 3 of the Patent Law and cannot be patented.
2. The inventions as per the following claims of this application were publicly known or publicly worked in Japan prior to the filing of this application, or could have been easily invented, based on inventions described in publications which had been distributed in Japan or abroad prior to the filing of this application, by a person having ordinary knowledge in the technical field of the invention prior to the filing of this application, and therefore cannot be patented, as per the stipulations of Article 29, Section 2 of the Patent Law.

### Description

#### All claims

#### Documents:

1. Japanese Examined Utility Model Application Publication S51-7071
2. Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication S57-003265
3. Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication S61-020125
4. Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication S62-018693
5. Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication S62-075821
6. Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication S64-070810
7. Japanese Microfilm of Utility Model Application H1-025881 (Japanese Unexamined Utility Model Application Publication H2-117758)
8. Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication H2-128359
9. Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication H2-293917
10. Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication H4-109457
11. Unexamined Patent Application Publication H5-173676

#### Remarks

Keeping power consumption within a specified capacity range by staggering the startup order was a known art in the field in question prior to the filing of this application.

The present application does no more than to associate multiple devices to something called a "group" and start them up in the corresponding well-known fashion.

Furthermore, as per the waveform in Figure 3 of Cited Literature 1, the fact that the startup interval can be suitably determined so long as periods of large current consumption do not overlap, and that this does not require a timer and can be based on monitoring of current or monitoring of the operating state of started devices is "self-evident"; verifying startup and starting up devices if they have not started up and the like is a matter of course, assuming that all devices are to be operating.

Refer to the documents indicated above if necessary.

## Record of Prior Art Literature Search Results

(Fields searched) IPC 7<sup>th</sup> Edition G06F 1/26, G11B 19/00

This record of prior art literature search results does not constitute a reason for rejection.

Substitute for Form 1449 A &amp; B/PTO

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# **INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Complete if Known

Application Number	09/941,710
Confirmation Number	6248
Filing Date	August 30, 2001
First Named Inventor	Katsuhiro SAITOU
Art Unit	2836
Examiner Name	Unknown
Attorney Docket Number	Q66039

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of

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## **U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Document Number		Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document
		Number	Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)		
		US			
		US			
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## **FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document			Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Translation <sup>6</sup>
		Country Code <sup>3</sup>	Number <sup>4</sup>	Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)			
		✓ JP	51-7071		02/26/1976		
		✓ JP	57-3265	A	01/08/1982		
		✓ JP	61-20125	A	01/28/1986		
		✓ JP	62-18693	A	01/27/1987		
		✓ JP	62-75821	A	04/07/1987		
		✓ JP	64-70810	A	03/16/1989		
		✓ JP	2-117758	U	09/20/1990		
		✓ JP	2-128359	A	05/16/1990		
		✓ JP	2-293917	A	12/05/1990		
		✓ JP	4-109457	A	04/10/1992		
		✓ JP	5-173676	A	07/13/1993		

## **OTHER PRIOR ART - NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city, and/or country where published.	Translation <sup>6</sup>

Examiner Signature

Date Considered

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov), MPEP 901.04 or in the comment box of this document. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST. 3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to indicate here if English language Translation is attached.